(b) As soon as the formalities are completed, the proposals will be put up within one month before the High Level Screening Committee on Urban Haat for the decision on the proposals.

Weavers groups registering under Goods Registration and Protection Act, 1999

3993. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

whether the regional weavers groups to protect their economic interest are registering under the Geographical Indications (GI) of Goods Registration and Protection Act, 1999;

if so, how many groups from Andhra Pradesh have been registered so far;

the brake-up of weaver's applications submitted for GI Protection during last three years and number of registrations taken place, year-wise; and

the steps being taken to sensitize the weaver groups to go for GI registration and the resultant impact thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has been providing financial assistance @ Rs. 1.50 lakh for each handloom product to register udner the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999 under the Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme through the concerned State Government/agencies.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that Pochampally Ikkat has already been registered by them under the Act in 2004. The Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms has provided financial assistance for registering additional 4 items under the Act.

The details of proposals received in this office from the State Governments/agencies for registration under the Act during the last 3 years are given below:

Year	Number of proposals received for registration under the GI. Act	Number of viable proposals sanctioned for registration under the GI. Act
2005-06	—	—
200647	74	20
2007-08	08	—

(d) Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has been following up with all State Governments from time to time for registering items under the Act. As per the information received , some of me States have conducted workshop/seminar/survey etc. to make aware of the benefits of me Act. The Act would confer legal protection to the items registered and prevent such registered items from unauthorised use by others.